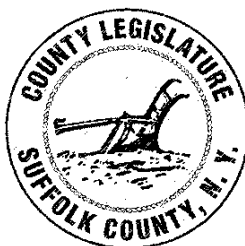


## SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

### Steve Stern

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR  
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT  
1842 E. Jericho Turnpike, Suite P  
HUNTINGTON, NY 11743



## PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Amanda Lindner  
LEGISLATIVE AIDE  
OFFICE: 631-854-5100  
Amanda.Lindner@suffolkcountyny.gov

### Legislator Steve Stern Honors Gold Star Mothers

*Parents who lost their children in war are recognized for strength and commitment to military families*



*Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern, Director of Veterans Services Agency Tom Ronayne and the New York State Gold Star Mothers during the organization's annual convention April 24, 2015.*

**HUNTINGTON, NY** – Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16<sup>th</sup> L.D.), Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, served as the keynote speaker during the opening ceremony of the American Gold Star Mothers of New York State 2015 convention April 24<sup>th</sup>.

It was the first time the annual convention has been held on Long Island since the Vietnam War.

Legislator Stern spoke before more than 30 mothers and their families and recognized New York State American Gold Star Mothers President Michele McNaughton and Vice President Chrys Kestler for their service to fellow mothers and families who have lost their loved ones in war.

This year's convention was of particular significance as the years 2014-2015 represent the 50th Anniversary of the commitment of U.S. forces in Vietnam and the 40th Anniversary of the ending of the Vietnam War. Legislator Stern and Tom Ronayne, Director of the Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency, honored the Gold Star Mothers for their personal sacrifices and strength.

"I thank all of you not only for what your sons and daughters have sacrificed to preserve the freedom that we enjoy here in Suffolk County and throughout the nation, but also for the care and encouragement that you give each other to ensure that our military families have the support they deserve," Legislator Stern said. "You give all of us hope, courage and strength."

The convention also included a visit to the World Trade Center site and the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City.